

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SATURDAY PAPERS FEATURED NIXON WARNS ALLIES
AGAINST GANGING UP ON US; ALSO CAUTIONS ARABS NOT TO ATTACH
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OIL CONDITIONS. SUNDAY MONDAY PAPERS FEATURE OIL DEVELOP-

MENTS. SUNDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED NIXON'S CRITICISMS STIRS EUROPEAN BITTERNESS; ALSO MIDDLETON STORY, ARE US MILITARY FORCES BIG ENOUGH? BALTSUN FRONTPAGED BONN STORY, US ARMS TALK GOAL IS SHIELDING LAND-BASED MISSILES.

1A. MONDAY WASHPOST FRONTPAGES FRANCE SOFTENS STANCE; BUT BALTSUN FRONTPAGES JOBERT REBUKES NIXON, NYTIMES FRONT-PAGES SOVIET MOCKS KISSINGER'S MIDEAST ROLE, TERMING IT A MODERN MOUNTAIN THAT PRODUCED A MOUSE; TIMES ALSO FRONT-PAGE GUIDED BOMBS EXPECTED TO REVOLUTIONIZE WARFARE, SLASH IN Bomber forces likely. Little comment.

1B. SUNDAY PAPERS SOMETIMES INSIDE, REPORTED NIXON BLAST ANGERS EUROPE; OFFICIALS REACTED SHARPLY, COMMART SOURCES TERMING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS INSULTING, THREATEN-

ING, COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, HYPOCRITICAL.

1C. INSIDE MONDAY STORIES INCLUDE: SOVIET TO GRILL KISSINGER ON DETENTE; PRAVDA LAYS US-EUROPE RIFT TO ENERGY PROBLEMS, AS US MONOPOLIES STILL PROFIT FROM MIDEAST CONFLICT; ALSO SCHLESINGER VIEWS SOVIET NAVY IN FAR LESS WORRISOME TERMS THAN ZUMWALT; NYTIMES MIDDLETON SAYS CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE DEBATE FOCUSES ON WHAT KIND OF WAR TO PLAN FOR.

2. NIXON. SATURDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN REPORTED NIXON WARNED EUROPEAN ALLIES FRIDAY THAT FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH US IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS COULD LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL CUT IN US MILITARY FORCES BASED IN EUROPE. AT SAME TIME NIXON TOLD CHICAGO AUDIENCE THAT POLICY OF IMPROVED RELATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS WAS VITAL TO PREVENT MASSIVE CRISIS THAT MIGHT PRODUCE NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION. NIXON SAID US IS INDISPENDABLE TO SECURITY OF EUROPE, NOT ONLY OUR PRESENCE IN EUROPE BUT ALSO FACT OF OUR NUCLEAR STRENGTH, ADDING IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED US PRESENCE IN EUROPE AT PRESENT LEVELS IF WE WILL BE FACED WITH CONTINUED ECONOMIC CONFRONTATION AND HOSTILITY FROM THE EUROPEAN NINE.

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2A. SATURDAY WASHPOST MARDER REPORTED NIXON WARNED COMMON MARKET NATIONS FRIDAY AGAINST TRYING TO GANG UP AGAINST US AND RULED OUT MEETING WITH EUROPEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL THEY WILL COOPERATE ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FRONT. SATURDAY BALTSUN KEAT ADDS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT DETENTE, NIXON APPEARED TO IMPLY THAT SALT TALKS WOULD PRODUCE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT AND THEN A FINAL ONE

LATER THIS YEAR. NIXON SAID "WE HAVE HAD SALT ONE AND SALT TWO AND WE WILL HAVE SALT THREE IN OUR MEETINGS LATER THIS YEAR," KEAT ADDING SALT TWO IS AIMING AT PERMANENT SET OF RESTRICTIONS ON OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR NIXON'S PLANNED VISIT TO SOVIET UNION IN JUNE.

3. EUROPE. SUNDAY WASHPOST HEADED MARDER, THE COMING CRISIS WITH EUROPE, MARDER SAYING PRESIDENT'S FRONTAL ATTACK ON EUROPEANS WHO DISPUTE HIS ATLANTIC ALLIANCE POLICY WILL THRUST US INTO SIMULTANEOUS CRISIS-STYLE BARGAINING WITH BOTH ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES AT AN ACUTE PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY, ADDING NIXON'S BLUNT WARNING THAT US SECURITY SUPPORT CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ALLIED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION PREDICTABLY INFURIATED EUROPEANS, MANY

FEELING PRESIDENT IS PUTTING HIGHER PRICE ON PURSUIT OF AMERICAN-SOVIET DETENTE THAN ON PRESERVATION OF ALLIED UNITY, ALTHOUGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DENY THAT. MARDER SAYS PRESIDENT MAY HAVE OPENED CONGRESSIONAL FLOODGATES TO WHAT HE HAS VIGOROUSLY FOUGHT: CUTS IN AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE. ACCORDING MARDER, ONE OF PRESIDENT'S OBJECTIVES SEEMS TO BE TO DEMONSTRATE HE ISN'T HAMSTRUNG GLOBALLY BY WATERGATE, AND POSSIBLY THAT HE CAN CHECK IMPEACHMENT THREAT BY RALLYING THE NATION AROUND AN EMBATTLED CHIEF EXECUTIVE. MARDER FORESEES A SPRING AND SUMMER OF DIPLOMATIC FERMENT AMONG
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